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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01842 031656Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------086664 031721Z /41
O R 031614Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7424
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1842

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PBOF PEPR LE IS XF
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 1833

1. SAW BOUTROS AT HIS HOME AT 1700 LOCAL AND TOLD HIM I VERY DISTURBED BY POSITION SARKIS HAD TAKEN THIS MORNING REGARDING ENTRY LEBANESE TROOPS IN SOUTH. THIS CONTRARY TO WHAT WE HAD UNDERSTOOD FROM GENERAL KHOURY. WE THOUGHT IT ESSENTIAL SOME SORT OF LEBANESE MILITARY PRESENCE BE ESTABLISHED IN SOUTH. BOUTROS SAID PRESIDENT HAD INFORMED HIM OF CONVERSATION AND OF HIS RESERVATIONS. PRESIDENT WAS

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AFRAID LEBANESE TROOPS WOULD BE CAUGHT BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS AND THAT GOL WOULD HAVE DISASTER ON ITS HANDS. HE NOTED THAT I HAD SUGGESTED IDEA OF SYMBOLIC FORCE. HE WOULD BE TALKING TO GENERAL KHOURY IN THE MORNING AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE WAS DOING HIS BEST TO GET ARMY AND SECURITY FORCE MOVING BUT THE OBSTACLES WERE TERRIBLE.

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2. BOUTROS SAID SIILASVUO WAS COMING TOMORROW, AND AS WE SAT THERE HE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE JOINT MEETING WITH KHOURY, COL. HAJJ (INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES) AND SIILASVUO TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION.

3. COMMENT: BOUTROS IS INDEED TRYING HARD AND HE IS NOT GETTING MUCH SUPPORT.

4. HAVE JUST SEEN JERUSALEM'S 0959. I THINK ASSIGNMENT OF SOVIET UNMOS TO TYRE AREA QOULD BE UNMITIGATED DISASTER GIVEN VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP SOVIETS HAVE WITH PLO AND THEIR UNHELPFUL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THAT ORGANIZATION (WHICH APPARENTLY HAS CONTINUED IN RECENT WEEKS).
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PRIME MINISTER, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, ARMED FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT01842
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780143-0932
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804101/aaaadhsu.tel
Line Count: 77
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 1833
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2819663
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, PEPR, LE, IS, XF, (BOUTROS, FU\'AD GEORGES), (PARKER, RICHARD B)
To: STATE JERUSALEM
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a4f35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014